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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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BIG E

Police ready for fair traffic

Officials hope 'perfect storm' of 2015 jam won't repeat

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

As the Big E makes the most of its 100th anniversary, its neighbors in Agawam hope at least one aspect of the fair falls short of last year — the traffic.

So far, officials' hope to avoid a town-wide snarl like last year's Connecticut Day tie-up — which jammed both Suffield and Main streets all the way from the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge to South Street for hours on a Wednesday — remains a matter of hope. Agawam's mayor and police chief say their approach to traffic management will be no different in 2016 than in 2015.

Mayor Richard Cohen and Police Chief Eric Gillis called the Sept. 22, 2015, traffic jam a "perfect storm."

"It was beautiful weather, we had a large influx of people coming in from Connecticut, which Agawam borders," said Gillis. "On top of that, it was also Yom Kippur, and schools in Connecticut were closed and several more people had that day off."

Although fair organizers di-

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GETTING THERE

Round and round

School bus safety, efficiency takes all-year effort

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

It's that time of year again. Agawam schools will soon be in session with kids riding those iconic yellow school buses.

Today's modern school buses are a far cry from Agawam's first motorized school bus — a Model T Ford truck that Louis DePalma modified in 1918 to carry schoolchildren. He later converted two bread trucks into school buses — no school bus manufacturers existed then — and created Agawam's first school bus service, which the town used for more than 50 years.

School transportation services, which account for about \$2 million of the \$42 million Agawam school budget, are now operated by the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, a regional consortium of seven suburban school districts.

What DePalma began nearly 100 years ago with a single vehicle has now evolved into 18 large regular education buses and 19 special education mini-buses and minivans. They carry students to and from Agawam schools as well as to vocational schools and out-of-district special education sites.

Jill Nehmer, site manager for LPVEC's bus facility on Shoemaker Lane, which serves Agawam and West Springfield, said LPVEC has provided bus

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

We've got Agawam covered

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to mail the Agawam Advertiser News to every resident for free over the next two weeks. On page 24 is a coupon you can mail to our circulation department, or a phone number you can call, to either extend your current subscription or begin a new one.

We resisted the temptation to take to the phones, interrupt your dinner and make our subscription pitch. Instead, our preferred way of continuously growing our readership is to share a couple of copies of the paper with you, ask for you to consider subscribing, and await the returns. We're proud of our work and hope you find it brings you closer to understanding your community. We're hoping for a good response from this campaign because we'll then be able to provide even more value to the local businesses that support us.

There are no plans to rest on our laurels. Our pledge is to continue to work hard at providing even better local news coverage. Your suggestions as to how we can do a better job are always welcome. We're a family-owned company with a deep commitment to the towns we serve. We want to meet, and if possible, exceed your expectations.

We'll be arriving at your home next week, too. So please take a moment to consider the service we provide and enjoy the paper. We hope to be arriving at your home every week for years to come. Thanks so much. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,
Patrick Turley
Publisher, Turley Publications

ROBINSON PARK SCHOOL

RPS principal eager for 1st day in 'new territory' as leader



Nicholas Bernier, the new principal at Robinson Park School, said he's prepared to make the new year begin smoothly and provide students with the best possible educational experience. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Nicholas Bernier has had many first days of school, but this September will definitely be one to remember. When the Robinson Park Elementary School opens for the first day of school, he will be the one in charge as the new principal.

He's excited but also slightly anxious: "This is new territory for me. It will be different than what I am used to," said Bernier, previously a seventh and eighth grade social studies teacher at Agawam Junior High School for 10 years.

He was unanimously selected by a search committee last spring to take over from longtime RPS Principal Cynthia Palazzi, who retired in June.

While students will be meeting their new teachers, he will be greeting his new students.

"It will be very exciting to see the year begin fresh with students entering," he said, adding that he's "prepared to make the new year begin smoothly and provide the best possible educational experiences for the students here."

It's fitting that Bernier is the new principal at an elementary school, since that was where he

was inspired to become a teacher 16 years ago, after his first year of college ended. Bernier took a six-week position as a substitute paraprofessional in a kindergarten class in Chicopee.

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MORE TO LEARN

Watch for the annual Back to School section in next week's Agawam Advertiser News, with school policies, contact information, bus routes and more for all Agawam schools.



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24 PAGES

Early deadlines for next edition

The next edition of the Agawam Advertiser News will include the School Department's annual Back-to-School section and will again be mailed to all households in town. The newspaper will have early deadlines for news and advertising.

Press releases, submitted photos, letters to the editor and community news must be received by 8 a.m. Monday morning, Aug. 29, to be considered for inclusion in the Sept. 1 edition of the Advertiser News. Items may be sent to Teri Machia at aan@turley.com. Machia can be reached at 413-786-7747.

For businesses wishing to advertise in the Sept. 1 edition, the deadline to contact sales representative John Baskin is the end of the business day Friday, Aug. 26. Baskin can be reached at jbaskin@turley.com or 413-786-7747, ext. 305.

YOU ASKED?

Water still flowing at spray park despite drought

Why is the spray park at School Street Park still running, with New England experiencing drought conditions?
— Asked by telephone at 413-786-7747

Although several towns in the area have declared water bans in response to dry conditions this summer, Agawam has not, and the spray park at School Street Park will continue to spout up to 80,000 gallons per day until closing for the season on Labor Day, costing the Parks and Recreation Department \$250 per day.

The money is already in the town's budget and — despite well-publicized bans on outdoor water use in towns like Southwick, West Springfield and Westfield — there's no problem getting water. Agawam's public water supply comes from the city of Springfield, which has reservoirs in Granville.

"If they're under restrictions, they'll notify the affected communities," said John Becker at the Agawam Water Department. "And we'll have to put restrictions place. But at this time, they haven't." Becker said other towns may have state Department of Environmental Protection orders that require them to reduce their water use in drought conditions. Both Southwick and West Springfield get their water entirely from wells, which are regulated differently from reservoirs; Westfield uses a combination of wells and reservoirs.

The water that drains from the spray park does not enter Agawam's sewer or storm drain system. It flows to a retention basin, which overflows to replenish local wetlands and the underlying aquifer.

Actual water use at the spray park is less than the maximum 10,000 gallons per hour, Sparks noted. The fixtures are



The spray park at School Street Park opened in 2015. FILE PHOTO

grouped into three zones, each of which has to be "activated" separately. If there are no children using the park and hitting the activation buttons, the jets turn off.

Sparks added that water use this year is expected to be less than in the park's first year, 2015, because the spray park opened six days later this year than last year, it runs eight hours per day this year, rather than nine last year. The water jets have also been

modified to operate at a lower pressure than last year.

Written by Michael J. Ballway. "You Asked?" is an occasional series of short articles answering questions of local interest from Agawam Advertiser News readers and social media. See something around town you'd like to know more about? Email your question to aan@turley.com.

Back to School

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

A newspaper just for your hometown

Hi there, neighbor!

Did we see each other last week? If so, thanks for being a loyal reader.

Has it been a while? Well, thanks for welcoming us into your home this week. Today and next week, Sept. 1, we're mailing a copy of the Agawam Advertiser News to every household in Agawam and Feeding Hills. Check us out. We think you'll want to see more of us, as a paid subscriber, for the rest of the year.

Since only subscribers and newsstand customers got the first three editions in August, here's a little catchup for our new friends who aren't subscribers yet.

- The City Council will hold a hearing on whether the town can purchase 586 Mill St., the land where HAP hopes to build a low-income housing development.

- A nonprofit group from Pittsfield hopes to site a medical marijuana dispensary somewhere in the South End Bridge Circle area.

- Most of the athletic facilities project at Agawam High School is on schedule, but work on the locker rooms has hit a snag and they won't be ready for use — as hoped — in time for the start of school.

- Buyers are showing interest in the eyesore Games and Lanes property on Walnut Street Extension, as cleanup efforts near completion.

- The families behind those "Be Kind" signs have raised more than \$2,600 to install "Buddy Benches" at Agawam school and park playgrounds.

- The School Department wants to build a \$26 million preschool and kindergarten building, but so far the City Council and mayor have not backed the tax increase it would require.

If you weren't reading the Agawam Advertiser News, you may have seen some of these stories in the daily newspaper from Springfield, or in the website owned by that daily, or in a regional weekly newspaper based in East Longmeadow. But you didn't see them given the same priority there as they were in your hometown paper. And in many cases, you didn't see those stories in those newspapers until they'd been published in this newspaper first.

If you weren't reading any newspaper, you may have heard about some of these stories by word of mouth. But unless your best friend is the mayor or the superintendent or the coach, you probably heard the story third- or fourth- or seventh-hand — without the benefit of a reporter's notebook or tape recorder to double-check what was actually said. And if you did get the correct story, chances are your storyteller got his or her facts from the newspaper.

Now you can be the one who gets all the facts.

If your house is in Agawam or Feeding Hills, you should be getting this week's and next week's paper, on us. Give us a chance and read through them. Learn something new about your town and dive a little deeper into local events, politics and personalities than you can with any other news source.

We know you'll find that the Agawam Advertiser News offers a local voice and a local focus that you'll find nowhere else. Knowing that, why would you want to miss another week?

We want to hear from you! Editor Michael Ballway can be reached at mballway@turley.com or 413-786-7747.

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Letter to the Editor

Boldyga has earned business owners' vote

Rep. Nick Boldyga has earned our vote. Our experience with Nick through his role as our state representative has been very positive. As business owners in Agawam, we've had to contact him a number of times over the years with questions or concerns and have always found him responsive and knowledgeable.

Nick is focused on getting rid of burdensome regulations and making Massachusetts a place where people want to own a business. We've experienced how hard it can be to find support for business owners at the Statehouse and Nick has gone to bat for local business owners every chance he gets. He's worked to make it

easier for us to hire employees, expand and attempt to run a successful business.

As parents we're concerned about our kids and our schools. During Nick's time as our state representative, he's worked hard to lower our taxes and support our schools. Nick has brought back additional state funding for our public schools. Just here in Agawam it's to the tune of over \$300,000 for safety improvements, auditorium renovations, and classroom upgrades for the school district. Nick has gone above and beyond for Agawam and our kids.

Nick has a local presence with full-time district offices in Agawam and Southwick

and we always see him at events throughout Agawam and the district. When we've seen Nick at Rotary, Chamber and local events he's always very approachable and willing to listen to the concerns of others.

We are proud to vote for him so he can continue being our state representative. Please visit Nick's social media sites — www.NickBoldyga.com, his Facebook Page and Twitter pages @RepNickBoldyga to get involved.

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JAY SPEAKS

Rudy Vallee recalled

There was an upright piano in our home while growing up. My sisters and I took lessons on it. In the piano stool was a piece of sheet music that I had to ask my Dad about. It was called "The Maine Stein Song."

My dad opened the sheet music and pointed to an inscription. It read, "For Sammy: We had lots of fun together, Rudy."

My dad explained, "Rudy Vallee and I were at the University of Maine together. Rudy wrote the music and lyrics to the university football fight song. I lost track of him after graduation, but now he is an important figure in entertainment. Rudy records, sings and plays in top nightclubs and shows, makes appearances on the radio and is an all-around major talent."

Life went on and the sheet music and Rudy Vallee slipped out of my mind.

My dad died in his early 50s. I was in my 20s at the time. My favorite participating sport was tennis. A call came from Todd, the club manager: "Jay, there is a guy named Rudy Vallee who is entertaining at one of the nightclubs around here. He wants to play some doubles tennis. He has a partner who travels with him. Can you get someone to play with you and meet Vallee at the club tonight?"

The name Rudy Vallee struck a note and I went to do some research and found that yes, this was my dad's classmate. Further research showed that he, like many entertainers, had a new lease on life and was back working at the night spots. I made a couple of calls and found out that one of my tennis groups was available and he would pick me up and we'd meet and play with Rudy Vallee.

Rudy was warming up on the court when we got there. We shook hands all around after changing into tennis clothes and shoes in the locker

room. After introductions, I said, "Rudy, you and my dad Samuel Berger were classmates at the University of Maine." Rudy looked stunned and then said, "My friend Sammy. I have not thought of him in a long time. It must be fate that brought us together, how is my friend?" I explained that he had died, and of course Rudy was obviously sad. "Well, this game will be played in honor of my friend Sammy!"

The next minute or two will be hard for my readers to accept, but this is what was said by Rudy:

"These are the rules that I will play by. There are no exceptions. I do all of the serving. I will serve until the ball falls in the right box. No double faults.

I will not be bound by the lines. All my shots are good as long as they get over the net. Please keep your return strokes near my partner and I. We will not chase down any balls." It went on like that for another minute. The best thing we could have done is just walk away, but we did play for about an hour and I have to tell you, my reader, that it was almost fun.

After the hour, Rudy and his partner were leaving, saying, "You'll take care of the fee, won't you?" I told Rudy of the sheet music, "The Maine Stein Song." And he roared, "I would love to have that now."

Later on I read up about Rudy Vallee. He was a combination of Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra. The teenagers loved him, as well as the young lovers. He had a style that spoke to each person ... soft and low.

It was too bad that my dad was not alive to see Rudy Vallee on the tennis court playing by his rules.

Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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AGAWAM

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Obituaries

John A. Farrington, 91

John A. "Red" Farrington, 91, died gently the afternoon of Aug. 13. Another proud WWII veteran has been called home.

Born in Lenox Dale to Leslie C. and Ina (Blaney) Farrington in June 1925, "Jack" was the youngest of four boys. He graduated from Lenox High School in 1943.

John followed two brothers into the service, enlisting in the Marine Corps. He served in the Pacific aboard an aircraft carrier as a propeller mechanic and attained the rank of staff sergeant. John's service to his country during World War II was the great honor of his life. The values and ideals of the Corps stayed with him and gave him an uncommon strength and discipline.

After the war, John met Barbara Dugan, a lab tech at the old Westfield State "San." They were married in June of 1952 and the following year settled in Agawam, where they made their home. In the early years they square danced all over Massachusetts and Connecticut. The birth of their only child, Laura, in 1966 brought a special light to John's life.

Red worked as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Agawam, retiring in 1989. He also earned a third class engineer's license to operate boilers and worked at several paper mills and Holyoke Hospital's boiler room until 1990. He loved to work hard, and he took great pleasure in repairing all kinds of engines. This was Red at his best — stopping to help a stranded motorist, serving the town of Agawam on the Conservation Commission, helping the crossing guard at Phelps School make sure the kids got to school safely, tending the graves every May up in the Dale, helping his friends in sobriety in the early 1970s, chewing the fat with folks all around Agawam and West Springfield (he had quite the gift of gab), mowing lawns of friends and neighbors, taking roses to his favorite gals at the Town Hall, telling his little daughter stories of the "olden days." It bothered him when children were doing without, and he supported charities like Toys for Tots and the Parish Cupboard even when he had to ride his bike there to deliver a donation.

When macular degeneration took most of his vi-

sion in the late '80s, Red's attitude was, "Why should I take a limo service to get to the retina doctor in Boston when I can ride a bike, two buses and a train?" Adversity was his fuel! Whether it was riding his bike down Riverdale Road with a table saw strapped on the back; enduring unfortu-

nate encounters with vehicles, snow storms or a chain saw; traveling to Idaho for cancer surgery at age 85; he always came through with a story he could share with great gusto. Only dementia had the power to stop him, but it never took away his fierce determination to live on his own terms.

John was preceded in death by his brothers Art, Les "Snookie" and Ollie. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Barbara; and his daughter Laura of Boise, Idaho (and her undisclosed husband Eric Johnson; she called to tell her dad she got married but he was coincidentally hit by a truck at the exact time of her wedding on 11/11/11).

John's regret after 85 years of living as told to his son-in-law: not being free in sharing the love that was in his heart. He did make some headway on that before he passed, to his great joy. For a tough old Marine, he did his best.

Lots of people deserve thanks and the gratitude of John and his family. His good friend Max helped him maintain his independence till way late in the game. The wonderful staff at the Holyoke Soldiers Home 1-North Memory Unit cared for him such that he never once lost his dignity. Marie and the volunteers at Hospice Life Care of Holyoke escorted him on his journey with love and grace.

Burial with honors will take place at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam in October. No other services are planned. Arrangements are under the direction of Agawam Funeral Home. The family requests that donations be made to the Holyoke Soldiers Home, Trustees Fund, 110 Cherry St., Holyoke, MA 01040, or www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/hly/giving; Hospice Life Care of Holyoke, 575 Beech St., Holyoke, MA 01040, or www.holyokevna.org; or a charity of your choosing.



James S. Davidson, 85

LACONIA, N.H. — James "Jim" Scott Davidson 85, of Court Street, died Saturday, Aug. 20, at Lakes Region General Hospital with his loving family by his side.

Jim was born August 15, 1931 in Springfield, Mass., son to the late Alexander and Mary (Scott) Davidson. He worked for over 20 years as a print press operator for Diamond International Printing and later retired from Smith and Wesson as a machine repairman.

Jim enjoyed singing, bird watching and spending time with his friends and family. He also carried on his father's tradition of tracking and recording the weather.

Jim is survived by his son, J. Scott Davidson and his wife Joan of Ware, Mass.; his daughter, Robyn Dunlap and her husband James of Laconia; two grandchildren, Patrisha Trefrey and

Samantha Brown and her husband Adam, all of Laconia; and his companion, Yvonne Chase of Laconia. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his wife, Lorraine H. (Verzone) Davidson.

A memorial service was held Aug. 24 at St. Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Laconia. Burial followed in the family lot at Union Cemetery.

For those who wish, memorial contributions may be made to St. Francis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Activities Fund, 406 Court St., Laconia, NH 03246.

Wilkinson-Beane-Simoneau-Paquette Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 164 Pleasant St., Laconia, is assisting the family with the arrangements. For more information and to view an online memorial, visit www.wilkinsonbeane.com.



Georgene Knight, 78

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Georgene (Koessler) Knight, 78, of Fort Myers, Fla., passed away peacefully on Aug. 17 at the Lodge at Cypress Cove, Fort Myers, after a brief illness.

She was born on Sept. 9, 1937, in Monroe, Mich. She moved to Southern California in 1958 where she met Thomas Knight Sr. They married, started a family, and later moved to Agawam, where they raised their four chil-

dren. Upon retirement they enjoyed spending time in their homes on Cape Cod and Sanibel Island, Fla.

She graduated from Westfield State College and was a teacher in the Agawam public school system from 1974 to 1992. She enjoyed playing tennis during the summers and skiing with her family in the winter. In later years, she was a regular on the tennis courts of Cape



DEATH NOTICES

Allivato, James. J. Jr.
Died Aug. 18
Private services
Agawam Funeral Home Inc.

Babcock, Lena M.
Died Aug. 19
Funeral Aug. 23
Agawam Funeral Home Inc.

Broz, Paul F.
Died Aug. 16
Funeral Aug. 20
Agawam Funeral Home Inc.

Coleman, Shirley J.
Died Aug. 14
Private services
Agawam Funeral Home Inc.

Davison, James "Jim" Scott
Died Aug. 20
Services Aug. 24
Wilkinson-Beane-Simoneau-Paquette Funeral Home, Laconia, N.H.

Farrington, John A.
Died Aug. 13
Burial in October
Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Agawam

Haskins, Grace E.
Died Aug. 10
Private service
Agawam Funeral Home Inc.

Knight, Georgene (Koessler)
Died Aug. 17
Private services

Turowsky, Kenneth P.
Died Aug. 17
Funeral Aug. 24
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$75, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Cod and Florida, learned the ropes of computers and the Internet with ease, and took up acrylic painting at the Sanibel Island Arts Association, known as BIG ARTS. Her paintings of the beautiful places she lived and people she loved will continue to grace the homes of her loved ones.

She is predeceased by her husband, Thomas Sr., and her parents, John and Joan Koessler. She survived by her four children, Thomas Jr. of Sunderland, Paul of Marblehead, Michael of Atlanta, Ga., and Kristin (Keevan) of Princeton; her eight grandchildren, Lau-

ren Knight of New Orleans, La., Bowen and Sophie Keegan of Princeton, Emma Knight of Amsterdam, Lenny Knight of Sunderland, Dylan and Emmy Knight of Atlanta, Ga., and Cameron Knight of Marblehead; her sister, Susan Lajiness of Monroe; and her sister-in-law, Carol (Knight) Brennan of Agawam.

A private memorial service will be held by the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the American Cancer Society, 4575 Via Royale, Suite 110, Fort Myers, FL 33919. Friends may sign the guestbook at www.horizonfunerals.com.

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The Town of Agawam is actively seeking applicants for the position of Call Firefighter. Applicants must have a desire to serve the community, be at least 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license and reside within the Town of Agawam.

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Star attraction

Race for sheriff high-
lights Democratic
primary ballot next
month

By Wyatt Aloisio
waloisio@turley.com

Candidates vying for the Hampden County Sheriff's post are eyeing problems facing all the communities, such as the ongoing opiate epidemic. And all have said they are qualified to take on these issues head-on.

After 42 years in the position, current Hampden County Sheriff Michael J. Ashe Jr. announced last year that he would not seek re-election. Five hopefuls are officially running to replace him. Three of the candidates will appear on Democratic primary ballots on Thursday, Sept. 8: Michael Albano, Thomas Ashe (no relation to the current sheriff) and Nick Cocchi. The primary winner will face Republican and independent candidates in November.

The Hampden County

Sheriff's Department is responsible for the administration of the Hampden County Correctional Center, which supervises 1,800 inmates, including pre-trial detainees and sentenced individuals.

Nick Cocchi

Cocchi, a Ludlow native, is currently deputy superintendent for the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, working to administer daily operations within the Hampden County Correctional Center including inmate housing and wellness, staff leadership, development and training.

Cocchi has worked for 23 years as a correctional officer and as an administrative official within the department. Should he be elected, his goals are to continue with the work that began with Sheriff Ashe, rehabilitating offenders within the Hampden County House of Correction so that they are returned to society as productive members of the community.

"I've had a great mentor in Sheriff Ashe and we have a great staff that work with

us there," said Cocchi. "As I wish the sheriff well in his retirement, it's a natural progression to want to continue the great work that we're doing."

He said he is proud of his roots and pledged to continue supporting correctional officer well-being programs, supporting a regional lockup facility and implementing youth offender initiatives focusing on rehabilitation and education. He also plans to address the current opioid epidemic by working to increase insurance coverage for addiction treatment to 30 days, providing more alcohol and drug counselor training programs, and creating a dedicated opioid prevention task force focused on the treating, enforcement, and education.

"Our job is to take offenders, who come to us at the lowest times in their lives, cuffs and shackles, and while they're in our custody, release them back into the community more likely to be productive and less likely to be more harmful," said Cocchi. "All of these offenders are going

back to the 23 cities and towns in which we live. My job and the sheriff's job as public safety officials is to make sure they come back to the community more productive."

Michael Albano

The opioid crisis is on the minds of other Democratic candidates, as well.

Albano said that the epidemic is a public health crisis and is on the top of his priority list.

"My goal is simple: save lives," said Albano. "Since 2010, more than 800 people in Hampden County alone have died because of opiate use. Presently, we have roughly four people a day in this state whose lives are taken because of opiate use. It is a public health crisis which really very little has been done to address."

Albano served as the mayor of Springfield from 1995 to 2004, the culmination of 32 years of public service which began with his work as a probation officer at Westfield District Court.

He has over the years worked for the city of Springfield in other capacities, including several that have brought him into contact with the sheriff's office, including the Massachusetts State Parole

Board, the Mayor's Youth Committee, the Springfield Conservation Commission, the Mayor's Task Force on Violence, the Springfield School Committee and the Springfield City Council, including serving as the council president in 1994 and 1995.

Since the end of his term as mayor, Albano has also served on the Governor's Council, elected in both 2012 and 2014.

Albano said that as sheriff, he hopes to put efforts towards opening a dedicated public health model addiction treatment center and 205-bed medical complex on the site of the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow. The complex would be separate from the criminal justice system, with 80 units for those serving sentences and 125 for those seeking addiction treatment.

The proposal would involve a collaborative effort between the Sheriff's Department with area health-care providers and public health agencies.

"Addiction is a disease and should be something that is treated that way," said Albano.

Thomas Ashe

Tom Ashe agreed that the next sheriff needs to ad-

dress opiate addiction.

Ashe brings to the race his 18 years of experience of working as a correctional officer in both the Hampden and Worcester counties, under the leadership of four separate sheriffs.

He also served from 1999 to 2010 on the Springfield School Committee and served as an at-large member of the Springfield City Council, serving as the chairman of its Public Safety Committee.

Ashe outlined plans to use several unused building units at the House of Correction to create an addiction treatment center that would be open as a resource to families with members or individuals suffering from addiction. He also wants to focus on early addiction prevention efforts within Hampden County public schools.

"I think the sheriff can play a major role in this battle against addiction, which is clearly one that we are currently losing," said Ashe. "It is obvious to me that we need to not only create more resources to help those suffering from addiction but to also use the resources better that we currently have at our disposal."

SHERIFF | page 7



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Sign up this month for labor law seminar

HOLYOKE — Agawam-based Insurance Center of New England will host a breakfast seminar next month covering the amendments of the Fair Labor Standards Act and to the Massachusetts Equal

Pay Act. The seminar will be held Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Delaney House, 3 County Club Road in Holyoke.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. followed by the seminar from 8:30 to 10 a.m. This event is free and open to

the public, and a hot breakfast will be served. Register by Aug. 31 to Erika Noble at enoble@icne.com.

Attorney Meghan Sullivan, managing partner of Sullivan Hayes & Quinn, specializes in employment

and labor laws and will discuss these amendments that affect employers across Massachusetts.

For more information, call 413-781-2410 or visit icne.com.

Public Safety

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 322 calls for service from Aug. 15 to Aug. 21. The department recorded three arrests in its public log. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Friday, Aug. 19

Carlito Colon, 21, of Laurel Park, Enfield, Conn., was arrested on charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and operating under the influence of liquor.

Shakia Baskerville, 29, of Cannon Road, East Hartford, Conn., was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Joseph James Michon, 21, of Chester Street, Springfield, was arrested on a charge of trespassing.

FIRE LOG

Fire logs were not received from the Agawam Fire Department this week. Last week's entries will be printed in a future edition of the Agawam Advertiser News.

Congregational Church news, upcoming events

The public is invited to attend the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., "a place to call home — a people to call family." Worship service is at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings with a children's message, church school and fellowship and coffee hour following.

Sunday, Sept. 4: Family Communion Sunday.

Monday, Sept. 5: 6 p.m., Survivors Group meets. Church office is closed today for Labor Day.

Tuesday, Sept. 6: 6:30 p.m., Missionary Committee meets. All other committee meetings at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 7: 7 p.m., Let Us Gather informal time of fellowship and prayer in the choir room. All are welcome.

Sunday, Sept. 11: Start Up Sunday with teacher and choir dedication, church school and coffee hour.

Monday, Sept. 12: 9 a.m., Prayer Shawl Minis-

try in the Friendship Room; 6:30 p.m., Trustees meeting.

Tuesday, Sept. 13: 7 p.m., Crochet class. All are welcome.

Wednesday, Sept. 14: 7 p.m., Deacons meeting, Let Us Gather in the choir room.

Thursday, Sept. 15: 9:30 to 11 a.m., Playgroup. Open to the public. Follows the Agawam Public School schedule; 7 p.m., Choir.

Saturday, Sept. 17: 7:30 a.m., Men's Ministry Meeting at Bobbie J's.

Sunday, Sept. 18: 10 a.m., worship service, church school and coffee hour.

Monday, Sept. 19: 9 a.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry; 4 p.m., Loaves & Fishes.

Wednesday, Sept. 21: 7 p.m., Mission Night. Missionary Committee is hosting dessert and coffee with Elena Huegel in Bryan Hall. She is a missionary living in South America and

will share stories from her book, "The Earless Man from Chile, Mission Stories of Healing and Resilience." Free and open to the public.

Thursday, Sept. 22: 9:30 a.m., Playgroup; 7 p.m., Choir.

Sunday, Sept. 25: 10 a.m., Worship service with church school and coffee hour.

Monday, Sept. 26: 9 a.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6 p.m., Survivors Group meeting; 7 p.m., Women's Ministry meeting in the friendship room.

Wednesday, Sept. 28: 9 a.m., Newsletter collation; 7 p.m., Let Us Gather in the choir room.

Thursday, Sept. 29: 9:30 a.m., Playgroup; 7 p.m., Choir.

Pastor Greg E. Dawson is available for prayer after the service. The church offers many programs, special family activities, trips, picnics and more. Newcom-

ers are welcome and members of the community are invited to participate in all church events. For more information, call the church office at 413-786-7111, visit www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com or email office@agawamcong.com. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until noon.

Firehouse Museum will be open Sept. 11

The Agawam Historical and Firehouse Museum at 35 Elm St. will be open Sunday, Sept. 11, from 1 to 4

p.m. and will feature a special exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Eastern States Exhibition.

For more information, visit www.agawamhistoricalassoc.webs.com or follow it on Facebook.

SHERIFF ■ from page 6

Ashe also aims to end existing long-term consulting contracts within the Sheriff's Department, with retired individuals still earning "six-figure incomes." And like Cocchi, he voiced support for a regional lockup facility.

A fourth Democratic candidate, Jack Griffin, a retired addiction specialist for the Connecticut Department of Correction, dropped out of the race but will still appear on the ballot.

The only name on Republican primary ballots is that of John Comerford, the current director of the Eastern Hampden County Veteran's Service District. Francis Barbaro, a captain in the Sheriff's Department, announced last week that he will run a write-in campaign for the Republican nomination.

The two primary winners will run in the Nov. 8 general election against independent candidate James Gill, an assistant deputy superintendent with the Hampden County Sheriff's Department. Polls for the state primary election will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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Vendors sought for Harvest Festival

The Agawam Rotary Club is looking for vendors for its annual Harvest Festival to be held Saturday Oct. 15, at School Street Park. It

will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further information, contact Sue deVillier at 413-427-7947 or sdevillier@bankesb.com.

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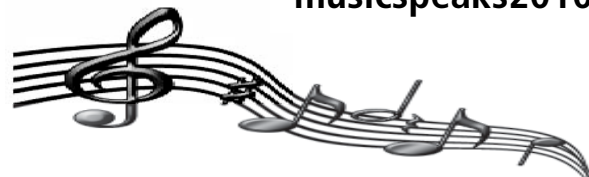
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School buses are parked bumper to bumper at the junior high school as students clamber aboard at the end of the school day last June. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

BUS SAFETY 101

LPVEC bus manager Jill Nehmer offered these suggestions to parents to keep their children safe around or in school buses:

- When driving children to school, follow pick-up and drop-off rules at each school to avoid creating a safety issue for bus drivers.
- Remind kids to remain seated in a moving bus — students must be properly seated to be better protected if there's an accident.
- Don't try to catch the bus in your car if a child misses the bus. A child leaving a vehicle behind a bus and running up alongside it is in the driver's blind spot. The bus driver could begin moving forward without seeing a running student.

Additional school bus safety tips from Safe Kids Worldwide:

- Walk with your kids to the bus stop and wait with them until the bus arrives. Tell kids to stand at least three "giant steps" back from the curb as the bus approaches and board the bus one at a time.

- Teach kids to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting off, and never to walk behind the bus.
 - Teach kids to look left, right, and left again before crossing the street to get on the bus.
 - Instruct younger kids to use handrails when boarding or exiting the bus. Be careful of straps or drawstrings that could get caught in the door.
 - If children drop something, they should tell the bus driver and make sure the bus driver is able to see them before they pick it up.
- Two reminders for drivers:
- Always follow the speed limit and slow down in school zones and near bus stops. Stay alert and look for kids who may be trying to get to or from the school bus.
 - Slow down and stop if you're driving near a school bus that is flashing yellow or red lights. This means the bus is either preparing to stop (yellow) or already stopped (red), and children are getting on or off.



In this view from the driver's seat, James "Jimmie" Lynch watches as a school bus driver maneuvers a school bus through the parking lot at the LPVEC facility on Shoemaker Lane. Lynch, a school bus driver for nearly 30 years — is also an LPVEC training instructor.

BUS ■ from page 1

transportation in Agawam since 2001, when it took over from Five Star Transportation Services.

In addition to overseeing drivers and mechanics at the facility, Nehmer is responsible for plotting school bus routes for the town's nearly 4,000 students. She starts with regular education routes in early July, then spends three weeks in August planning routes for special education students.

Nehmer imports an electronic file with information on students enrolled for the new school year into LPVEC's routing software to design the routes. She said regular education routes usually don't change drastically from year to year.

"I make sure every student can safely walk to a bus stop. If there's not a safe walkway to a corner bus stop, I assign a bus stop in front of a student's driveway. Our software is equipped with satellite images, so I can zoom right

in to a street to determine if there are any safety concerns," added Nehmer.

She also works with Helen Marganti, the district's transportation coordinator, regarding any concerns parents or school administrators might have about certain bus stops or routes.

Distraction the worst

James "Jimmie" Lynch, a school bus driver for nearly 30 years — the past 15 in Agawam for LPVEC — said the "worst nightmare" for bus drivers is distracted motorists.

"Motorists distracted by their phone, opening a cup of coffee, or looking for something in their car might miss a student crossing the road or a school bus full of children stopped in front of them," he said.

Since 2008, he's not only been driving but also training other LPVEC bus drivers, both new and experienced. A certified school bus instructor who trains drivers year-round, Lynch holds a Class B commercial driver's license with a school bus and passenger endorsement.

He said motorists who

GETTING THERE

A two-part look at the folks who help our children get to school safely, as Agawam students head back to classes Sept. 8. Next week: Crossing guards.

ignore the flashing lights on buses are "a big problem and a huge safety concern." Lynch said drivers are trained to tell students who need to cross the road to stand 10 feet in front of the bus and wait for the driver's "thumbs up" before crossing.

But before new drivers ever get behind the wheel to carry students, they receive extensive training. Lynch said drivers must have a minimum of 60 hours of training before taking a road test with a state Registry of Motor Vehicles inspector. All training — 32 hours behind the wheel and 28 hours in the classroom — is documented and presented to the inspector before the road test.

Training includes:

- School bus components and pre-trip safety check
- Obstacle course ma-

neuvurs (they must complete four maneuvers) and on-road driving

- Properly handling and maneuvering a school bus
- Student drop-off and pick up procedures
- Railroad crossings, emergency road and weather techniques

Drivers also learn how to deal with student behavior.

"We train them how to verbally address students," said Lynch. "If students aren't being compliant, and if it's safe to do so, the driver will pull over to the side of the road to get the situation under control until it's safe for the bus to continue."

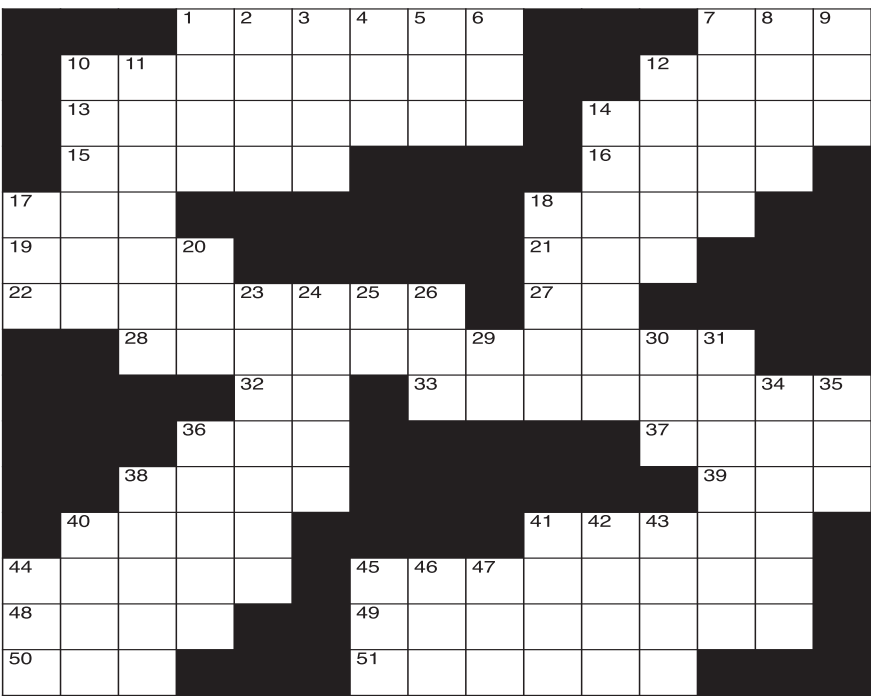
He added that LPVEC also contracts with a behavioral specialist who is at the garages once a week to talk with drivers about any student management issues they may be having.

Drivers — who earn between \$17 and \$21 an hour, depending on experience — undergo a CORI criminal background check, a fingerprint check and drug screening prior to being hired. Once employed, drivers are placed in LPVEC's random drug and alcohol testing program.

While CDL drivers are required to take eight hours of retraining each year, Lynch said LPVEC drivers receive at least 10 hours of retraining each year, including monthly training sessions as well as annual first aid, EpiPen, and CPR training.

Most buses also are equipped with cameras that can be used in event of a safety investigation. Buses are also monitored with GPS and drivers can reach a dispatcher via a two-way radio.

Buses used in Agawam have an average age of five years and are inspected annually at a state-certified inspection station and four times a year by a RMV inspector. Drivers perform pre-trip inspections every morning and afternoon. Mechanics track regular maintenance with a fleet software program.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dignified
- 7. Where to get a pint
- 10. Broken down
- 12. Peruvian city
- 13. Expressed grief
- 14. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
- 15. Sizing up
- 16. Form of Hindustani
- 17. ___-de-sac
- 18. Greek sophist
- 19. Greek portico
- 21. Christian Television Network
- 22. Attractiveness
- 27. The man
- 28. Home of the Cowboys
- 32. Home to Hollywood
- 33. Be later in time

- 36. Woman
- 37. A type of protection
- 38. Conservative people
- 39. Bela ___, Hungarian Leader
- 40. Rodent
- 41. Gloss or sheen
- 44. Looks good in clothes
- 45. Stephen Malkmus' band
- 48. Org. of C. American States
- 49. Doorways are some
- 50. Cattle genus
- 51. Rock bands play them

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Indigenous

- people of Norway
- 2. Not odd
- 3. Ring
- 4. Adam is one
- 5. Champion Volunteer QB
- 6. The smartest Ed
- 7. Fast cats
- 8. Two-toed sloth
- 9. ___ humbug!
- 10. Investigator
- 11. Explosive warhead
- 12. Wrap
- 14. Hidden meaning
- 17. Reciprocal of a sine
- 18. Go with pains
- 20. Small constellation
- 23. Prohibited
- 24. Blocks
- 25. Home to Boston (abbr.)
- 26. Small viper
- 29. Toward
- 30. Promotional materials
- 31. Plundering and destroying
- 34. Provokes
- 35. One point north of due east
- 36. Freshwater fishes
- 38. Male parents
- 40. Little (Spanish)
- 41. Sean ___, actor
- 42. Bowfin fish
- 43. Large integers
- 44. An association of criminals
- 45. Genus of grasses
- 46. Annual percentage rate
- 47. Mechanical belt

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

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Borgatti remembered for legacy of service

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Edward Borgatti left a long legacy of a service and dedication to the town of Agawam, and to many more who encountered him.

Borgatti died Aug. 1 at age 88 and was remembered fondly by a wide range of friends and acquaintances during memorial services.

"There were so many people who came through the line during his wake that had great stories about my father that I had never heard," said Shelley Borgatti-Reed, his daughter, a member of the Agawam School Committee. "It was great to hear from all of these people who turned out to pay their respects to my father."

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a career police officer for Agawam, but also had his hands in town politics, local sports and several business ventures, such as EB's Restaurant and the Agawam Motel. He was known for his dedication to all of his work, and his generous acts of kindness.

"I graduated high school with Ed in 1946," said Lillian Scibelli. "He once bought me and my classmates a meal when we had a gathering at his restaurant. He bought



In early spring 2016, members of the Borgatti family join Boy Scout Joseph Barber, Recreation Director Christopher Sparks, and Men's Softball Commissioner Aldo Mancini at Borgatti Field, where significant improvements have been made for the spring season. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI At left, Ed Borgatti, who died this month, was a police officer and city councilor as well as a prominent business owner in Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

lunch for 20 of our classmates. It was so generous of him."

Borgatti-Reed said she heard many of those types of stories about her father. Borgatti spent considerable time working with his father in the roofing and construction business.

During his police career, he continued to do jobs on the side, often helping out people who need it.

"He would go out and re-do roofs and additions and not charge people for the labor," she said. "He

was so generous with his time whenever he could."

Borgatti also developed an affinity for cooking, and spent a considerable amount of time cooking in several restaurants before turning Waterfront Meats into the popular EB's on Walnut Street Extension, a longtime restaurant known for its chicken wings. It continues to be run by the Borgatti family.

"He really loved to cook," said Borgatti-Reed.

Borgatti had a close relationship with his family, especially his grandson

Mike. Mike Reed was a varsity football player; his grandfather played for Agawam as well as a semi-pro football team called the Agawam Brownies.

"He loved watching his grandson play football and was lucky enough to see him play in college," said Borgatti-Reed. "It brought him a lot of joy. And Mike wants to follow in his grandfather's footsteps and get into law enforcement."

Borgatti spent 32 years as a patrolman and then a detective at the Agawam

Police Department. Former police officer and current City Councilor Robert Rossi recalled his time serving on the department with Borgatti.

"He had already been on the department for a while when I came on," said Rossi. "He was always really good to the rookies, including me. He would make sure he showed them the ropes and made sure officers were comfortable. I never heard anything bad about him and everyone liked him

around the precinct."

In his retirement years, Borgatti chose to stay involved in the community, spending 12 years on the Agawam City Council. He also helped to secure the land for the park that was eventually named after him on River Road, a park that includes two softball fields and a playground.

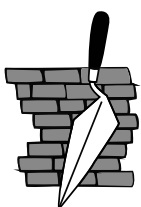
Borgatti was predeceased by his wife Stella of 44 years in 1998. In addition to Borgatti-Reed, he also leaves a son, Edward P. Borgatti.

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PRINCIPAL ■ from page 1

"I loved every minute of being there," said Bernier. He switched his major to history with a concentration in education, and never looked back.

Bernier said it will feel "very strange" not to return to the classroom this September. "That's all I've ever known, career-wise," he said. "I will miss the 'a-ha' moments when a student — or a group of students — who had previously not grasped a concept finally got it," he added.

However, he believes his classroom experience will help him remember that students come first. Bernier, who became a certified administrator in 2013, added that it's of the "utmost importance to never forget that the reason that we are all here is for the students."

Bernier said his number one goal as the new principal is to get to know the staff, students, and parents of RPS. "While there are always changes, in my first year as principal, it's impor-

tant to learn the culture of a building before enacting any significant changes," he said.

PTO 'excited'

As part of his effort to learn about that culture, Bernier and the PTO organized an informal "meet and greet" in early August at the school so he could meet many of the RPS parents and students.

One parent who attended was Mel Gaynor, whose two sons are attending RPS this year. She's also the new president of the Robinson Park School PTO. Gaynor said she and the other PTO officers met with Bernier during the summer.

Gaynor is looking forward to working with Bernier.

"He'll be good to work with — our PTO is excited about having him as the school's new principal."

She added that while Bernier will continue some of things started by Palazzi, he will bring some "fresh ideas"

of his own to the school.

Bernier said he and the PTO have not discussed any specific plans yet, nor have any changes been talked about. "When the school year begins, and the PTO meets regularly, plans for the year will start to be discussed."

Getting used to interacting with younger students is the biggest and most obvious change in moving to an elementary school from the junior high school. Bernier said one of his new challenges will be to stay current on "pedagogical strategies" at the elementary level, since they can be different from those being implemented at the junior high level.

"I've been doing my homework this summer, though, and I'm confident I can meet this challenge," he added.

To help prepare for his first year as principal, Bernier also has had many discussions with the other elementary principals and administrative staff.

"They've been extremely helpful," he said. "I've got-

ten many words of wisdom from the three other elementary principals. Perhaps the best advice is that I'm never alone. They're all a phone call away when I have questions — and I'm certain I will as the school year begins."

Bernier said he plans to bring leadership experience that he gained while serving on many committees at the junior high school and in the district to his role as an elementary principal.

"I've always been a person who is able to see the 'bigger picture' — and I feel that's an important quality to have as an administrator," he said. "Things I do can have a positive effect on 400 students — and that's very powerful."

Before he was appointed principal at RPS, the Westfield resident interviewed for principal positions in some other districts, but he said he's "always had my heart set" on taking the next career step in Agawam.

"I'm very happy that things worked out the way they did," he said.



Kelly Dunphy and her daughter Mikayla, 5, who is entering kindergarten at Robinson Park School, talk with Nicholas Bernier, the school's new principal, at a meet and greet for parents and their children in early August. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

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TRAFFIC from page 1

rect traffic along Interstate 91 or Route 5 to Memorial Avenue in West Springfield, Agawam is a convenient shortcut for Connecticut drivers from the south and southwest, with the Big E grounds just over the bridge from Agawam.

Gillis acknowledged that the 100th anniversary celebrations have the potential to create more traffic jams during the 17-day event this year, running from Sept. 16 to Oct. 2. He said, however, that there is not much the Agawam Police Department can do to re-route traffic or change how fast the cars move.

"At this point, none of the conditions have changed," said Gillis. "The roads are still the same and the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge has not been renovated yet. So the town has the same situation as last year."

Cohen agreed, but said he hopes when he meets with Big E officials in the next couple of weeks that suggestions he made last year will have been taken and possibly been put into practice.

"I made a number of suggestions to the Big E after last year," said Cohen. "The biggest thing is the need for more commuter lots that would help reduce the number of cars coming through."

He suggested the fair could set up remote parking farther south than Agawam, such as at the Enfield Mall. He said has not heard from the fair's administrators about his suggestions.

Gerard Kiernan, the Big E's director of operations, was not available for comment at press time.

Last year, the state delayed the start of lane closures on Interstate 91 in Springfield to keep traffic moving during the Big E. This year, the multi-year road construction project is underway and may affect fairgoers' choice of routes to Memorial Avenue. Gillis said he is unsure how many drivers will try to use Agawam as a shortcut to avoid construction.

Gillis and Cohen both said the town will do what it needs to do in order to keep people safe and keep the traffic moving as much as possible. Both the full-time and special police officers will be utilized. Some officers are also stationed at the town's schools to help buses navigate through the Big E traffic.

The Big E pays the bill for Agawam police officers needed to direct traffic during the event, with no cost to the taxpayers.

This year, Connecticut Day is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 21. Agawam Day is set for Wednesday, Sept. 28, this year. The Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur do not fall during the Big E this year; both are after the fair ends.

Public hearing next week on bridge work

The state Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing in town next week on the proposed replacement of the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge.

The hearing is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, in the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. State officials will discuss work proposed for the bridge that carries Route 147 over the Westfield River, connecting Agawam with Memorial Avenue in West Springfield. Under MassDOT plans, the roadway would be widened and made safer for both vehicles and pedestrians. The proposed reconstruction work would also include the nearby intersections of Memorial Avenue and River Street in West Springfield, and Springfield Street's intersections with Main and Suffield streets, and Walnut Street, in Agawam. The project may involve land takings, and MassDOT's policy on land takings will be discussed at the hearing.

The estimated \$23.17 million project is currently slated to begin construction next summer.

Plans will be on display one-half hour before the meeting begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. According to MassDOT, all views and comments made at the meeting will be considered as much as possible.

A second public hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, at the West Springfield Town Hall Auditorium, 26 Center St., West Springfield.

All are invited to participate in the public hearings. Written statements may also be submitted, postmarked within 10 days after the hearings, to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Bridge Project Management, Project File No. 605384. Submissions will also be accepted at the meeting. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feed-back.highway@state.ma.us.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway.

Seats still available for Lioness casino trip

The Agawam Lioness Club is sponsoring a trip to Mohegan Sun on Sunday, Sept. 11. The cost of the trip is \$33, which includes bus driver's tip, a \$15 food voucher and a \$15 free bet.

The bus will leave from the

Agawam High School parking lot at noon or earlier if riders have all boarded. Early reservations are encouraged for this popular trip.

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Youth



Award-winning dancers

Eight dancers from Impressions Academy of Dance in Agawam were selected to compete at the World Dance Championships earlier this month in New Jersey. Alexis Wozniak, Chloe Gionfriddo, Sydney Cosgrove, Alivia McKay, Emma Nicosia, Isabella Sibilia, Shannon Tallis and McKenna Podworski performed their award-winning lyrical routine to "Will You Be There." The dancers were semifinalists at this invitation-only event. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Doering hosts 'Back to School Night' for parents

The Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main St., Agawam will conduct its annual "Back to School Night" for parents of both grades 5 and 6 on Wednesday, Sept. 7, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Parents will follow their child's schedule and meet with the subject teacher in a classroom setting. Teachers will discuss the course of study, homework assign-

ments and answer parents' questions.

Because there is usually a large attendance on this evening, students should not accompany parents. All parents will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium with Principal Susan Federico and Assistant Principal Chad Joyal, at which time the program for the evening will be explained.

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Rick Seldomridge from Granny's Place Farm Stand on Main Street recently visited the children at Jumpstart Preschool on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills. He taught the children about different types of vegetables and had them try a few. They all got to take home some locally grown honey and produce. The event was also open to the public, and a few families stopped by and enjoyed the visit.

Clockwise from top right, Rick Seldomridge, from Granny's Place in Agawam, shows locally grown corn and other vegetables to children recently at Jumpstart Preschool in Feeding Hills. Rachelle Hannoush and Jennifer Blais from Jumpstart Preschool stand with preschoolers in front of Rick Seldomridge from Granny's Place. Ashlynn Fennel shows off a bunch of carrots from Granny's Place. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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Youth

Phelps school takes trophy in summer reading challenge

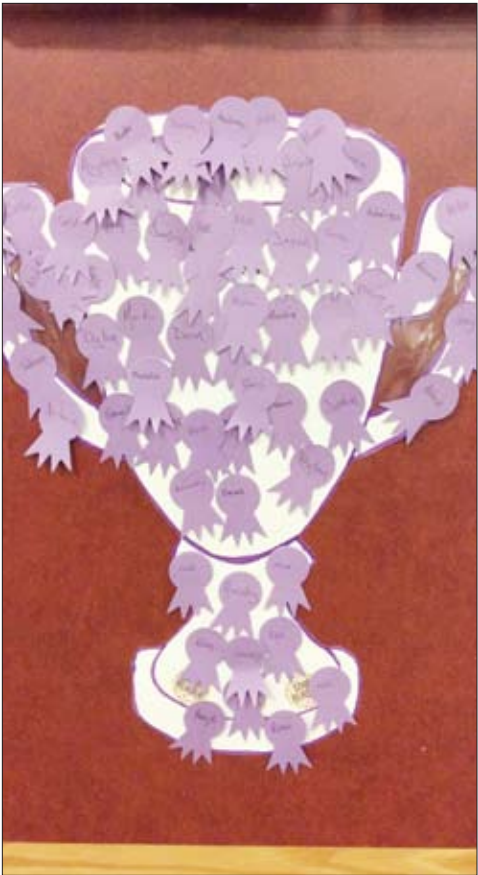
The Agawam Public Library had a successful 25-Day Reader Challenge this year, and so did Phelps School.

"It's been a fantastic summer," said Pamela Weingart, youth services librarian. "We had 935 kids and teens register for the Summer Reading Program at the Agawam Library. It's awesome that 412 of those kids and teens were able to reach the goal of being 25-Day Readers."

Pictures of all of the readers can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/AgawamChildrensLibrary/>.

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library again funded a contest between the local elementary schools that encourages kids to be 25-Day Readers. The Agawam elementary school with the highest percentage of 25-Day Readers receives \$200 for the school library; the other three schools each win \$100.

The first-place winner of this contest was Benjamin J. Phelps School, with 21 percent of the students reaching the 25-Day Reader goal. Second place was Robinson Park School with 16 percent. Third place was a tie between James Clark School and Clifford M. Granger School, both with 13 percent of the students reaching their goal.



Students at Phelps School took the trophy and top prize for this summer's 25-Day Reader Challenge at the Agawam Public Library. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pizza tasting, coloring on tap for teens at library

The Agawam Public Library is offering the following programs for students in grades 5 through 12. To register, visit www.agawamlibrary.org, call 413-789-1550, ext. 3, or go to the library at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

Thursday, Sept. 13: 4 p.m., Candy and Coloring for students in grades 5 to 12. Students are invited to take some time out their busy schedule to relax, color and eat candy.

Registration is required.

Friday, Sept. 16 and Oct. 7: 4:30 p.m., Block Party for students in grades 5 to 8. Participants will compete in engineering challenges using Lego Blocks and are invited to come to one meeting or both. Registration is required for each date.

Thursday, Sept. 22: 4:30 p.m., Cover to Cover Book Club for students in grades 5 to 8 includes a discussion and activities

based on the book, "City of Ember" by Jeanne DuPrau. Copies of the book will be available to check out of the library. Registration is required.

To see a full list of programs for students in grades 5 to 12, visit agawamlibrary.org/teens/. Follow the library on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/agawamlibraryteens/>. For more information, call 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

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As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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SPORTS

SAFL squads clash in annual jamboree

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Last Saturday morning the Suburban Amateur Football league held its annual Kick-Off Jamboree on a beautiful day at East Longmeadow High School.

There, several of the programs in the SAFL had the opportunity to get an idea of what talent they will have to work with for the upcoming season.

There was a small hiccup in the schedule to lead off the day as the three Palmers teams, their senior, junior, and pee wee teams were unable to attend the event due to the fact their helmets were not returned in time. Each fall, helmets are checked out to make they are safe for players to use to protect them as much as possible from concussions. Teams must replace their helmets every 10 years.

SAFL Commissioner David De-matteo would modify the senior and pee wee matchups to have a three way matchup between Agawam, East Longmeadow, and Chicopee. Palmer was originally scheduled to play Agawam, but instead, the teams continued to rotate offense and defense on and off the field for five plays each.

"I thought it worked out really well," said Agawam Seniors coach Lance Dillard. "We were able to keep everything moving, got a lot of plays in, and we saw two different teams that we will be seeing during the regular season."

With the departure of the Springfield teams from the league with the exception of 5A, Agawam has one of the largest programs now in the SAFL. Dillard said his seniors team, which consists of seventh and eighth graders and is the last step before players head to the high school level, is very deep this year with numbers.

However, they lack some experience.

"We definitely have a lot of players," said Dillard. "But a lot of them are seventh graders."



The Agawam Seniors, the seventh and eighth grade squad, tried their luck in a three-way scrimmage with East Longmeadow and Chicopee last Saturday morning. The Seniors are seeking to improve on a .500 season from last year.

League introduces new rules for upcoming campaign

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

EAST LONGMEADOW – Coaches working with young football players are doing their best to prepare them for a potential high school career when the bright Friday nights are really on.

The Suburban Amateur Football League is among youth football leagues that promote proper safety techniques and emphasize a concept known as "heads-up" tackling. Heads-up tackling is a method of tackling that minimizes head-to-head contact and aims

to prevent concussions.

In addition, younger players also have more rules in some cases in order to promote a sportsmanship style of play, something that continues to be addressed at the high school level. This year, the SAFL has installed new rules for the 2016 season regarding sportsmanship, and certain types of hits and tackles.

Coaches of youth football are supposed to embody sportsmanship and set an example of it for the players who are participating in the game. This year, according to the updated rules, "the rules

committee believes that as teachers and adult leaders of young athletes playing football, coaches should be held to a high standard of behavior appropriate to such a responsible position."

Starting this season, coaches will be ejected from football games if they are flagged twice for unsportsmanlike contact, including arguing with referees.

Another rule in the league this year concerns management of the clock. The league's rules committee noticed that teams ahead in games will use fouls to draw more time off the clock. This year, inside

two minutes, a team that is ahead in the game and commits a foul, will not be able to eat time off the clock.

Instead, the clock will remain stopped until the next play is snapped.

Rules regarding field conduct passed this year address defensive players, quarterbacks, and ball carriers. Starting this season, the SAFL will bar the act of tripping a ball carrier due to the number of the leg injuries that have occurred in

SAFL | page 16

New tradition to start with inaugural high school athletic hall of fame

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Agawam High School will induct its first group of Hall of Famers on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 12 p.m.

After a slow start, the Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame committee was able to come up with a large group of names to be inducted as the inaugural class.

The concept was brought forward by current Athletics Director David Stratton, who formed a committee to get it started. Stratton said many other larger schools in the area have an athletic hall of fame to memorialize players, coaches, and entire teams that have con-

tributed significantly to a town's interscholastic sports teams. The inaugural Class of 2016 embodies a diversity of players and coaches from different sports and the early eras of Agawam sports.

Some of the names are also familiar to current Agawam athletes and their families who regularly visit Agawam's facilities for games and events. Harmon Smith, whom the football and multi-purpose field is named after, was a longtime coach of Agawam's football program for many years in the program's infancy and is a member of the Massachusetts Football Coaches Hall of Fame. While many other sports

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Preparing for the new season

By Tim Peterson
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Soccer players from all over the region work out at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow under the direction of Western Mass. Pioneers coach Federico Molinari.

LUDLOW - More than 40 high school soccer players from Ludlow and the surrounding communities, attended the second session of the High School Prep Week, which was run by the Western Mass. Pioneers coaching staff, at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last week.

"Our second Prep Week has been going very well so far. It's a good mix of boys and girls players this week," said camp director Greg Kolodziey, who's also the boys' varsity soccer coach at Ludlow High School. "We've held the Prep Week for high school players for only one week during the past

couple of years, but we decided to add another week this summer."

Overall, the Western Mass. Pioneers held a soccer camp over seven weeks this summer.

"We had seven weeks of summer camp this year and each week was very successful," Kolodziey said. "We had campers from 4-year-olds to high school students attend our camps. They just love playing soccer here at Lusitano Stadium and working with the Pioneers players."

Some of the other towns represented at last week's camp, which was held from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each morning were Chicopee, Belchertown, Palmer, Wilbraham and Ware.

SEASON | page 16

Sports

GOLF CALENDAR

Rick's Place Classic set for Sept. 17

WILBRAHAM – On Saturday, Sept. 17 is the 15th annual Rick's Place Golf Classic (formerly the Rick Thorpe Memorial Golf Tournament) at the Country Club of Wilbraham at 859 Stony Hill Road.

We've ordered up another gorgeous day so all you have to do is play golf.

All proceeds to benefit Rick's Place, Inc. where grieving young people and their families meet others to do activities, projects and games meant to support their grief process.

Please print all forms and mail to Bill Scatolini at 85 Post Office Park Wilbraham, MA 01095.

Agawam High School Athletics to host 22nd Annual Golf Tournament in September

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School Athletic Department invites the public to save the date and participate in its 22nd annual golf tournament to be held Saturday, Sept. 24, at Oak Ridge Country Club.

This tournament raises money to help support the athletes and coaches of the Agawam High School programs. Student athletes do not

pay fees at Agawam High School as some do in other communities. Please join us for an enjoyable day and support a good cause.

If you would like to participate as a major sponsor, golfer or tee sponsor, or donate a raffle prize, please contact Dave Stratton in the Athletic Office at 413-821-0529 or at dstratton@agawampublicschools.org.

Inaugural Cory J. Gawacki Foundation Tournament

CHICOPEE – The inaugural Cory J. Garwacki Foundation Live to Give Tournament will take place on Sunday, Sept. 28 at Chicopee Country Club.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12 p.m.

Dinner will be held following the tournament.

The cost is \$125 per person or \$500 for a foursome.

There are four levels of sponsorship available as well: Eagle (\$2,000), Birdie (\$1,500), Tee Gift (\$1,750) and Tee (\$100).

Please make checks payable to: Cory J. Gawricki Foundation.

Send registration to Theresa Scully, P.O. Box 484, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

Annual HCC Foundation Golf Classic set

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will hold its 29th annual fundraising golf tournament Monday, Sept. 12, at Springfield County Club in West Springfield.

Proceeds from the annual tournament support student scholarships and academic equipment purchases through the HCC Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising arm of Holyoke Community College.

The program begins with a buffet lunch followed by a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. The \$185 fee includes greens fees, golf cart, lunch, dinner, and refreshments on the course.

After a great afternoon of golf, enjoy cocktails on the clubhouse porch

and a fabulous dinner, where participants will have the opportunity to enter raffles and bid on dozens of silent auction items including vacation packages, Disney passes, Bruins and Red Sox tickets, and restaurant gift certificates.

Arrange your own foursome or sign up as a single.

Over 28 years, the annual HCC Foundation Golf Classic has raised more than \$450,000 for HCC scholarships and educational technology for HCC classrooms. To register or sponsor the golf tournament, please go to www.hcc.edu/golf

For more information, please contact: Keith McKittrick: (413) 552-2746 or kmckittrick@hcc.edu.

Send us your golf tournament information. Contact Sports Editor Dave Forbes at 413-283-8393 ext. 237 or send an e-mail to dforbes@turley.com.

Youth field hockey season starts



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO SUBMITTED

On Wednesday, Aug. 17, Agawam Youth Field Hockey kicked off its 2016 season. The program consists of almost 100 girls in grades one through eight comprising seven teams at four different grade levels. The program serves as a feeder to Agawam High School's successful varsity program.

Godeks win father-daughter tournament



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The team of Dean and Alia Godek, both of Feeding Hills, recently won the state junior division of the Father-Daughter tournament at The Haven CC. They won in a three-team playoff on the first hole when Alia sank a 25-foot birdie putt. Alia is also the Mother-Daughter State champ along with her mother, Pina Godek and is a member of the Agawam High School golf team, which begins practicing next week.

Pioneers wrap up successful campaign

By Tim Peterson

*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

LUDLOW – The 2016 campaign was a very successful one for the Western Mass. Pioneers.

The Pioneers, who finished the season with a 7-4-4 overall record, qualified for the playoffs for the first time since joining the Premier Development League in 2010.

"I thought we had a very good season this year," said Pioneers General Manager Greg Kolodziej during an interview at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow a couple of weeks ago. "We had some very talented soccer players on the team who provided our fans plenty of excitement."

The Pioneers, who lost their final two regular season matches against FC Boston and GPS Portland, finished in second place in the Northeast Division standings. They lost to Reading United AC, 3-1, in an Eastern Conference first round road playoff match in the middle of July. It was the Pioneers first playoff appearance since 2008 when they were members of the USL-2 League.

Federico Molinari, who was the head coach of the Western Mass. Professional Soccer Team for one season, returned as the Pioneers head coach this summer. Dennis Gomes, who was the Pioneers head coach in 2015, returned to his former position as an assistant coach.

"All of the players really enjoy playing for Federico," Kolodziej said. "He's a very good soccer coach and we're very lucky to have him

here in Ludlow. Dennis also did a job of coaching the team. He's Federico's right hand man."

Molinari has a year-to-year contract.

"I'm hoping that Federico does come back and coach the team again next year," Kolodziej said. "There are a lot of very good coaches in our league and he's definitely one of them."

While there aren't any limits to where Kolodziej and the Pioneers coaching staff can recruit players from, the majority of the players listed on this year's Pioneers roster were from either Massachusetts or Connecticut.

"Most of our players are from the local area, but we've housed players for the summer in past years," Kolodziej said. "We just want to have the best soccer players playing for the Pioneers every year."

One advantage that the Pioneers do have over other teams in the Northeast Division is that the bleachers at Lusitano Stadium are always filled for their home games.

"The players really do enjoy playing home games at Lusitano Stadium," Kolodziej said. "It's always a great atmosphere here on Friday nights."

Other than the one season that he played for the Western Mass. Pro Team, Jay Willis, who's a Ludlow native, has been a member of the Pioneers since the team joined the PDL. Willis recently said that he won't be returning as a player next summer, but he'll probably return as an assistant coach.

"Jay has been a great player for this team for

many years," Kolodziej said. "I was an assistant soccer coach at Ludlow High School when he played there. He's just a great soccer player and it has been a lot of fun watching him progress over the years. He's also a very good role model to the younger players on the team."

The Pioneers are able to put eight players, who are older than 23 years old, on their roster for each game. Those players are Evan Burkos, Chris Roswess, Daniel Fabian, Mauricio "Toto" Coimbra, and Maxi Viera, who scored the Pioneers lone goal in the playoff match.

"All of those guys are older and they are veteran soccer players," Kolodziej said. "They helped lead the younger players on the team. We're hoping a few of them will be returning next year."

Two of the college players on this year's squad were Kyle Tomas, and Nick Zucco, who both graduated from Ludlow High School.

"Guys like Kyle Tomas,

and Nick Zucco are the future of this team," Kolodziej said. "Hopefully, they'll keep playing for us during the next couple of years."

After the first six matches of the regular season, the Pioneers had a 2-1-3 record before putting together a four-game winning streak. They won three of those four matches by one goal.

The Pioneers locked up a postseason berth following a wild 4-3 home victory against Westchester on July 8.

They then wrapped up the regular season by playing two matches in a span of 48 hours the following weekend before making a seven-hour bus trip to Reading, Penn., two days later.

"That was a tough stretch for us," Kolodziej added. "We did make a good run right until the end of the season. It was a very good summer."

A new group of Pioneers players will be looking to give their faithful supporters plenty to cheer about on Friday night's next summer.



SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper?

Email your image(s) with description to:

dforbes@turley.com or gscibelli@turley.com

Sports



JAMBOREE ■ from page 14

The Seniors were a middle-of-the-pack squad this year, and will face a bit different competition this year with the realignment of the league.

The Juniors and Pee Wees from Agawam also saw action later in the morning. Both teams went 2-6 last year but are hoping for better seasons this fall with a year of experience for some of the younger players on each squad. Pee Wee coach Frank Deste-fano said all 14 of his third graders returned from last year.

“I’m very optimistic because they all came back and we have some good athletes who joined the

team this year,” said Deste-fano.

The day continued with the Wilbraham, Holyoke, Ludlow, and Ware teams also seeing action.

Wilbraham matched up with Franklin County, a team consisting of kids from Greenfield and some surrounding communities. Holyoke was up against a very tough Springfield 5A team.

Ludlow and Ware both took on squads from West-field.

The SAFL season is scheduled to kick off on Labor Day weekend, with teams scheduled for games both Saturday, Sept. 3, and Sunday, Sept. 4.



The Juniors faced Chicopee in their end of the scrimmage, getting an opportunity to run several plays in their time on the turf at East Longmeadow High School. The Juniors were 2-6 last year, but have a lot of players returning this year.



The Pee Wees returned 14 players from last year’s 2-6 team and are looking to make a deep run in the playoffs this year. The Pee Wees took on players from both East Longmeadow and Chicopee in their scrimmage at the SAFL Kick-off event last Saturday morning.

SAFL ■ from page 14

the past couple of seasons. Prior to passing the rule change, tripping players was illegal, but allowed to take down a ball carrier.

The league is also banning tackling a quarter-back through any contact below the knee.

The NFL has recently passed safety rules about

hits against a receiver that is deemed “defenseless” because they are in the act of receiving the ball or otherwise cannot see a hit coming.

The SAFL will add a running ball carrier that slides feet first to give themselves up as a defenseless player.



HOF ■ from page 14

are played inside the stadium, which is being renovated to an artificial turf surface with an all-weather track.

Smith coached the 1951 team that represented Western Massachusetts in the 1952 Peanut Bowl down in Columbus, GA. That entire Peanut Bowl team will also be inducted to the Hall of Fame. The Brownies defeated Georgia State Champion Richmond Academy 25-12 on New Year’s Day.

Following his tenure, assistant coach Harry Leonardi took control of the team. Leonardi will also be inducted to the Hall of Fame along with coach Debbie Lickley.

Joining the Peanut Bowl team will be the 1940 football team, and the 1987 state co-champion girls soccer teams.

Players to be inducted in the inaugural class include Jim “Turk” Bruno, Kristin (Patterson) Hutchinson, Leonard “Buddy” Johnson, Tom Knight, Roger Leclerc, Rick Parolo, Joseph Pisano,

and Tom Quinn.

Former Athletic Director Clifford Kibbe, whom the high school gymnasium is named after, is set to be inducted as a contributor to Agawam sports, along with longtime supporter Vito Depalo.

Bruno and Pisano were both standouts on the football field. Both running back, Pisano had 159 points in 1941. Bruno, who would end up serving later on as the superintendent of schools, had 28 touchdowns and 174 points in 1957.

The group will have their contributions regaled at a lunch on Oct. 16. All who would like to attend and help to recognize these inductees are welcome. Please mail checks in the amount of \$30 per person, made payable to Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame, to Rosemary Stratton, 120 Pineview Circle, Agawam, MA 01001. Any questions or interest in sponsoring this event in any way may be directed to Rosemary Stratton as well.

SEASON ■ from page 14

Kolodziej worked with the girls players, while Federico Molinari, who’s the Pioneers head coach, and Jay Willis, who’s a player/assistant coach for the Pioneers, worked with all of the boy’s players at the other end of the field.

“Both groups are doing very well,” Kolodziej added. “We’re trying to help them prepare for the first day of practice next week.

All of the high school soccer teams in Western Massachusetts are allowed to hold their first practice of the new season on Aug. 25.

One of the boys players who attended last week’s camp was Josh Labonte. He’s entering his senior season at Ludlow High School and has been a member of the varsity soccer team since he was a sophomore.

Labonte, who’s a forward, has scored 12 career goals and has four career assists for a total of 16 points.

He scored his first career goal at the beginning of his

sophomore season in a 2-0 road win against East Longmeadow.

“I scored my first career varsity goal on a header,” Labonte said. “I just felt awesome when I saw the ball get past the goalkeeper. I really couldn’t believe it happened.”

At the end of the 2014 season, Labonte recorded his first and only hat-trick of his varsity career in a home game against Chicopee, which was a 4-0 Ludlow win.

The Lions weren’t allowed to take part in the postseason tournament that season because they’ve used an ineligible player. They lost to Agawam, 1-0, in the Western Mass. Division 1 quarterfinal match last November.

“We do have a lot of returning players this year,” Labonte said. “We’re hoping to win the Western Mass. title, which would be a great way to end my high school career.

The last time that the Lions took home the cham-

pionship trophy was back in 2011. They defeated Longmeadow, 4-1, in the championship match that season.

While Labonte is a veteran member of the Ludlow boys’ soccer team, Alexandra Silva, who’s a junior, is hoping to become a member of the Ludlow girls’ varsity soccer team for the first time this fall. She missed her entire sophomore season after suffering an ACL injury.

“I really missed playing soccer last year, but it feels very good to be able to attend this camp the past two weeks,” said Silva, who’s a defender. “I’m hoping to make the varsity team, but if I don’t, I’ll do my best on the junior varsity team. It’s just a privilege to play soccer for the high school team.”

It should be another very exciting high school soccer season in Western Massachusetts.

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Aug. 26
THE NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission.

THE NEWTOWN KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today and tomorrow in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission.

THE NORTHEAST REINING HORSE SHOW from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. today through Sunday in the Coliseum on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission.

Saturday, Aug. 27
A TAG AND CRAFT SALE sponsored by the Agawam Women's Club from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam. Rain or shine.

Snacks and lunch items will be available for purchase.

Sunday, Aug. 28
THE ELM CITY KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield.

Friday, Sept. 2
THE MOVIE "MINIONS" will be shown at 8:15 p.m. on a giant, inflatable 40-foot screen at School Street Park in Agawam. Popcorn and refreshments will be available.

Friday, Sept. 9
THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S APPLAUSE SERIES begins its 13th season with the live-action radio drama, "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. It is free and open to the public.

Saturday, Sept. 10
THE POLISH AMERICAN CLUB OF AGAWAM "Country Feast" featuring Truck Stop Troubadours starts at 5 p.m. Dancing, a 50-50 raffle, a buffet and cash bar. Tickets, \$20 per person, available at the clubhouse bar during business hours, and on its Facebook page. Limited amount for sale at the door.

Sunday, Sept. 11
THE AGAWAM HISTORICAL AND FIREHOUSE MUSEUM at 35 Elm St. will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. and will feature a special exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Eastern States Exhibition. For more information, visit www.agawamhistoricalassoc.com.

websites.com or follow it on Facebook.

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic will be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-789-2061.

Wednesday, Sept. 14
THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Tuesday, Sept. 20
THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public. This all-volunteer organization, appointed by the mayor and funded, in part, by the Mass. Cultural Council, is looking for new members

Sunday, Sept. 25
SACRED AMERICAN MUSIC, 1816-2016, community concert at 2 p.m. at Copper Hill United Methodist Church, 27 Copper Hill Road, E. Granby, Conn.

Saturday, Oct. 8
ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTER OF WESTERN MASS. will host "Festa Italia! A Taste of Italy, Food and Wine." Admission is free and tickets for food items will be sold in \$1 increments. Doors open and serving will begin at 5 p.m. The ICC is at 56 Margaret St. in Springfield.

ONGOING
THE WESTFIELD FARMERS MARKET is open every Thursday, rain or

shine, from noon to 6 p.m. on the lawn of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 36 Court St., until Oct. 6. Free parking available. ADA accessible. Locally grown flowers, plants, vegetables, fruit, honey and bee products, goats' meat and milk products, baked goods, wine, wood crafts, dairy and more. SNAP customers receive up to \$10 match in purchasing benefit weekly.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church,

745 Main St. A round-table discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level classroom at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email RosemarySandlin@rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu Monday, Aug. 29: Chicken breast topped with tomato and swiss cheese, scalloped potatoes, peas and carrots, fresh oranges. Tuesday, Aug. 30: Tortellini carbonara, spring salad, mixed fruit. Wednesday, Aug. 31: Orange juice, muffins, cheese omelet, sausage, cantaloupe. Thursday, Sept. 1: Lasagna and meatballs, house salad, pears. Friday, Sept. 2: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, steamed spinach, pudding.	Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., bingo; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold. Tuesday, Aug. 30: 9 a.m., knitting class; noon, ladies only billiards; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie ("Eat, Pray, Love"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., chorus; 6 p.m., beginner line dance. Wednesday, Aug. 31: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., ballroom lessons, scrabble, Line Dance Jamboree (\$5); 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold. Thursday, Sept. 1: 9:30 a.m., quilting; 10 a.m., line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., pitch; 6:30 p.m., evening pitch, evening line dancing. Friday, Sept. 2: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., all media art; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; 4 p.m., poker.
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Fans flock to country concert

A crowd of nearly 2,000 turned out for the final Summer Fest concert of the 2016 season at School Street Park on Aug. 17. Country music fans came to hear performances by two up-and-coming bands, Runaway June and LoCash, at the KIX Country Night concert. Two of the radio station's personalities, Amanda Jo and Shaggy, were on hand to help emcee the event. The free public concerts at School Street Park this summer have been present-

ed by the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department, the Agawam Rotary Club, and the Agawam Cultural Council. More than a dozen corporate sponsors from the area also provided support to make the Wednesday night concerts possible. There were seven concerts this year at the School Street Park. This is the second year the concerts have been held at the new Darcy Davis Band Shell — previously they were held on the Veterans Green near Phelps School.



Teresa Murphy, left is a 2005 Agawam High School graduate who now lives in Longmeadow. She came back to her hometown with two friends, Victoria Brodie of Windsor Locks, Conn., and Caroline Mayer, right, of West Hartford, Conn., to enjoy the final Summer-Fest concert.



Country music act Runaway June performed at KIX Country Night SummerFest at School Street Park. The three-part harmony band includes, from left, Hannah Mulholland, Naomi Cooke, and Jennifer Wayne. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Henry Zaborowski, 2, of Agawam watches in awe as Walter Mantani of the Agawam Cultural Council blows up a balloon for him. The group gave away free balloons during the concert.



Jennifer Churma of Agawam was the lucky winner of a \$250 Visa gift card in a raffle held by the Agawam Cultural Council. Holding the gift card is her daughter, Makayla.



Nearly 2,000 people attended the final SummerFest concert of the season at School Street Park on Aug. 17.



This group of friends and family snagged a picnic table at the park while waiting for the concert to start and for the pizza they ordered to be delivered. Seated around the table are, from left, Chick Coviello of Agawam, Beth Valley of Palmer, Kelly Crevison of Monson, Sherri Cullins of Springfield, and Pam Pebbles and Mark Coviello, both of Agawam.

Legals

**THE
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION –
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF
A DESIGN PUBLIC
HEARING**

Project File No. 605384

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Bridge Replacement project in Agawam, MA.

WHERE: Agawam Senior Center
954 Main Street
Agawam, MA 01001

WHEN: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 6:00 pm

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacement project.

PROPOSAL: BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, The purpose of the project is to replace the existing Bridge No. A-05-002=W-21-014(OU0) between the municipalities of Agawam and West Springfield, MA. It carries ST 147 SPRINGFIELD STREET OVER THE WESTFIELD RIVER. It consists of a four span con-

tinuous steel beam superstructure. Within the Agawam periphery two intersections will be reconstructed, namely: Route 147(Springfield St.) at Walnut St./ Walnut St. Extension and Route 147 (Springfield St./Memorial Ave.) at Route75 (Suffield St.)/ Route 159 (Main St.). In the town of West Springfield one intersection will be reconstructed, namely: Route 147 (Memorial Avenue) at River St. The work includes minor roadway widening, traffic signal replacement and safety improvements for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The City/Town/Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at this hearing.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the meeting begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Information Meeting regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Bridge Project Management, Project File No. 605384. Such submissions will also be accepted at the meeting. Mailed statements and exhibits intended

for inclusion in the public information meeting transcript must be postmarked within ten (10) business days of this Public Information Meeting. Project inquiries may be emailed to

dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

**THOMAS J. TINLIN
HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATOR
PATRICIA A.
LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

8/18,8/25/16

**PUBLIC HEARING
AGAWAM
CITY COUNCIL**

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 19, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.** at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Petition of Debra Ann Desmond for a proposed Zone Change Plan for parcels on Main Street, Agawam, MA. (Parcel ID# K4 1 5, K4 1 6 and K4 1 13) The Zone Change request is to allow the entirety of the three (3) parcels to be rezoned to Business A. A copy of the proposed Zone Change can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam City Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam City Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA. 8/25,9/1/16

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AGAWAM
PLANNING BOARD**

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 6:30 PM** at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Debra Desmond for a zone change request on three parcels on Main Street (K4-1-5, K4-1-6 & K4-1-13) from Residence A2 and

Business A to all Business A. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:

Mark R. Paleologopoulos,
Chairman

Agawam Planning Board
8/18,8/25/16

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.**

**Probate & Family
Court Dept.
HD16E0035PP**

To **Gail C. Colburn** of Agawam, Massachusetts and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by **Norman W Colburn** of Agawam, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as tenants in common an undivided part or share of land lying in Agawam, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that he desires that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than One Hundred Fifty-two Thousand One Hundred (\$152,100.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the nineteenth day of September 2016, the return day of this citation.

Witness, ANNE M GEOFFRION, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this eighth day of August, 2016.

Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate
& Family Court

8/18,8/25,9/1/16

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that SOLitude Lake Management will be conducting an aquatic plant management program at Silver Lake in Agawam, Massachusetts on Wednesday August 31, 2016.

The use of the lake's water will be restricted as follows:

Swimming, fishing and boating – Restricted until completion of the treatment on August 31, 2016

Direct drinking – Restricted for 3 days or until September 3, 2016

Irrigation – Restricted for 5 days or until September 5, 2016

Livestock watering – Restricted for 1 day or until September 1, 2016

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact the Silver Lake Association or SOLitude Lake Management at (508) 885-0101.

8/25/16

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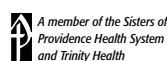
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Our Town



Thomas Cascio, left, was recently awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship by Lions Clubs International. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thomas Cascio awarded Melvin Jones Fellowship

The Agawam Lions Club announced that Thomas Cascio has been awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship by Lions Clubs International in recognition of his commitment to Lions and his community. This is the highest award that can be conferred by the Lions organization.

Cascio has been a Lion for 40 years, and has participated in countless club projects, including the club's largest fundraiser, the Big E chicken barbecue, and has also served as club president.

The Agawam Lions Club has 75 members and meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The club is comprised

of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs. For more information or to get involved with the Agawam Lions Club, visit agawamlions.org and follow the club on Facebook.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with more than 1.3 million members. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired and made a strong commitment to community service and serving youth throughout the world. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit www.lionsclubs.org.

Cecchi produce stocked at Stop & Shop stores

Stop & Shop has partnered with 16 family-owned and independent farmers in Massachusetts, including E. Cecchi Farms in Feeding Hills, to provide fresh produce at its 131 grocery stores in the state.

One of those stores is just down the road from Cecchi, at 1282 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

For decades, Stop & Shop has supported Western Massachusetts farmers and this program is one of the many ways Stop & Shop shows its commitment to providing customers with the best quality food possible, while continuing to build relationships with local farmers.

WEDDING



Levesque — Ranstrom

BEDFORD, N.H. — Erik John Ranstrom, son of Barry and Rosemary Ranstrom, was united in marriage with Lindsey Ann Levesque, daughter of Sandy Levesque and the late Kenneth Levesque, of Bedford, N.H., on Friday, May 20, at St. Elizabeth Seton in Bedford.

The Rev. Matthias Durette, OSB, was celebrant, and the Revs. John Salatino and Warren Savage were co-witnesses. The groom's brother, Timothy Ranstrom, was best man, and the bride's sister, Amanda Paddock, was matron of honor.

The groom was born in Springfield and raised in Agawam and Feeding Hills. He is assistant professor of theology and religious studies at Rosemont

College in Bryn Mawr, Pa., and earned a Ph.D. in theology from Boston College in 2014. He is also a former communicant of St. John the Evangelist in Agawam.

The bride was born in Nashua, N.H., and raised in Bedford. She graduated with a double major in French and business administration from St. Michael's College and earned an M.A. in English and creative writing from Southern New Hampshire University. She is a career advisor at Southern New Hampshire University.

The couple traveled to Rome after the wedding and received the blessing of Pope Francis for newlyweds at the weekly general audience.

King of Cuts to hold grand opening Aug. 27

The King of Cuts Barber-shop at 326 Springfield St., Agawam, will host a grand opening celebration Saturday, Aug. 27. As part of the festivities, discounted haircuts for

kids in kindergarten through grade 8 will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Burgers, hot dogs, chips, soda, cookies, cupcakes and more will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Zielenski named manager at Westfield Bank branch

Westfield Bank has announced that Heather Zielenski of Agawam has been named manager of the bank's Feeding Hills office. In her new position, Zielenski will be responsible for sales, service, and operational performance of that office.

She began her 17-year career with Westfield Bank as a teller at the Arnold Street office in Westfield. Most recently, she was as-



sistant manager of the Feeding Hills office, where she was recognized as a "Top Performer" in 2015 and 2016.

A lifelong resident of Agawam, Zielenski attends American International College and is also active in the community, serving as a board member for the Young Professional Society of Greater Springfield and as a volunteer with Suit Up Springfield.

Seats still available for Lioness casino trip

The Agawam Lioness Club is sponsoring a trip to Mohegan Sun on Sunday, Sept. 11. The cost of the trip is \$33, which includes bus driver's tip, a \$15 food voucher and a \$15 free bet.

The bus will leave from the

Agawam High School parking lot at noon or earlier if riders have all boarded. Early reservations are encouraged for this popular trip.

For reservations, call Pat at 413-786-1782 or Rose at 413-786-5134.

Register for Sept. hazardous waste collection at DPW

The Agawam Department of Public Works will hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 10, at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffolk St.

This program offers residents a safe, economical way to dispose of household items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic.

Items that will be accepted include solvents, polishes, pesticides, caustic cleaners, oil-based paints, stains and varnishes, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury thermometers, button batteries, antifreeze, gasoline, car wax, driveway sealer and roofing tar, adhesives, chemical fertilizer, weed

killer, pool chemicals, flea control products and no-pest strips. For a complete list of acceptable materials, visit www.agawam.ma.us.

Items that should not be brought to this collection day include used motor oil and used car batteries, which may be brought to the DPW Annex any Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; empty paint cans or dried-up latex paint, which should be left next to trash containers on curbside pickup day; and propane tanks.

This event is free to Agawam residents, but appointments are required. Registrations are being taken during the month of August at 413-821-0600, ext. 0, or 413-821-0624.

Catholic Women's tag sale Saturday

The Agawam Women's Club will hold a tag and craft sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, in the St. John the Evangelist Church Parish Center at 833 Main St., Agawam. The event will be held rain or shine.

Snacks and lunch items will be available for purchase.

Club members are reminded to bring "White Elephant" donations to the parish center before Thursday, Aug. 25.

GRAND-OPENING

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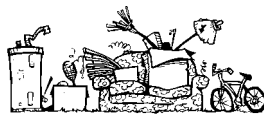
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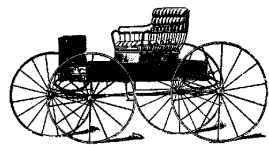
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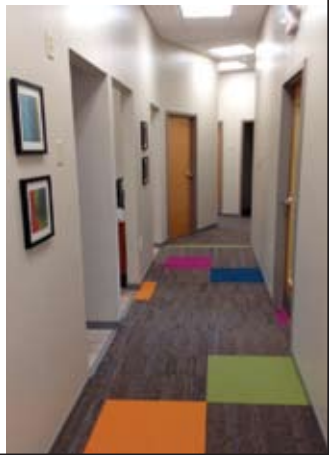
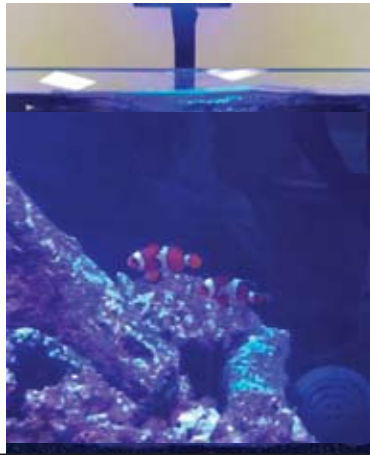
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